

# B R E V I O R A

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### A NEW SUBGENUS OF *CHAMELEO* FROM RHODESIA AND NEW RACE OF *MABUYA* FROM KENYA COLONY

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Fifty years ago when Boulenger (1906, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (7), **18**, p. 346, fig.) described *Rhampholeon marshalli* from Mashonaland, he remarked on the only occurrence of this genus south of the Zambezi as being "of very great interest." In assigning *marshalli* to *Rhampholeon*, Boulenger was undoubtedly guided by his own key (1887, Cat. Lizards Brit. Mus., **3**, p. 438) to the genera of chameleons.

More recently Parker (1942, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., **91**, p. 82) examined *marshalli* for certain osteological characters, in which respect he found it agreed with other continental species of *Rhampholeon*, a group I have since suggested should be regarded as only a subgenus of *Brookesia*.

Dr. V. FitzSimons (1943, The Lizards of South Africa, p. 172, pl. xxi, fig. 5) also treated *marshalli* as the only South African representative of *Rhampholeon*. He personally collected topotypes in Chirinda Forest, Selinda Mountain, as well as an extensive series from Vumba Mountain, also in Southern Rhodesia. Thirty-one of these specimens of *marshalli* are now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and were examined by me when making a synopsis of the continental Africean *Brookesia* (subgenus *Rhampholeon*). At that time (1951, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., **106**, p. 182, footnote) I rejected *marshalli* as a *Rhampholeon*, despite its bicuspid claws, referring it to *Chamaeleo* on account of its prehensile tail.

Actually the bicuspid claws (present or absent in *Rhampholeon*) constitute the only character in which *marshalli* differs from the forms assigned to *Chamaeleo*; thus it bridges the gap

between *Chamaeleo* and the subgenus *Rhampholeon* of *Brookesia*.<sup>1</sup> With a view to inviting attention to the intermediate status of this peculiar little chameleon, I suggest it should be made the type of a subgenus of *Chamaeleo*, viz.

BICUSPIS subgenus new

*Type.* *Rhampholeon marshalli* Boulenger; known only from Southern Rhodesia.

*Diagnosis.* General appearance and soft nasal protuberance resembling that of *Chamaeleo* rather than *Rhampholeon*. Scales on soles smooth; claws bicuspid; tail prehensile, half to two-thirds the length of head and body. The tail is included in the length of head and body from 1.6 to 2.1 times, with an average of 1.86 times for our entire series of 31 *marshalli*. The largest of the series, a topotypic gravid ♀ (M.C.Z. 44445), measures 103 (68 + 35) mm.

The only *Brookesia* (subgenus *Rhampholeon*) with a tail anything like as long proportionately as that of *marshalli*, is *B. k. kersteni* (Peters), the claws of whose forefeet have a secondary cusp—though a secondary cusp is lacking on the claws of the forefeet of its northern representative *B. k. robiechii* (Boulenger).

MABUYA BAYONII KENIENSIS subsp. nov.

When the Museum of Comparative Zoology received a pair of typical *Mabuya bayonii* Boeage from Chitau, Bihe District, Angola, in 1936, it was immediately apparent that its East African representatives should be separated, if only on the basis of their strongly tricarinate dorsal scalation. The matter was deferred until such time as a revision of all African *Mabuya* could be undertaken, or a decision reached as to whether *bayonii* itself should be treated as a race of *gravenhorstii* Duméril and Bibron of Madagascar. As time for any such thorough investigation is lacking, I propose the name *Mabuya bayonii keniensis* subsp. nov.

*Holotype.* Museum of Comparative Zoology No. 29662, an adult ♂, from the northern Uaso (Guaso) Nyiro, Sotik, Kenya

<sup>1</sup> As Angel (1942, Mem. Acad. Malgache, 36, pp. 154, 178) designated no type for his genus *Evoluticauda*, I suggest that *Brookesia nasus* Boulenger be so regarded.

Colony. Collected by the Smithsonian-African Expedition, 1909.

*Paratypes.* A specimen from Mount Kenya (U.S.N.M. 40710), another from Wambugu (U.S.N.M. 40781), a third from Lake Sirgoit (Sirgoit: U.S.N.M. 42024), and three others (U.S.N.M. 40947-8 and M.C.Z. 29663) with the same data as the type.

Unquestionably the juvenile from a salt marsh on the Loita Plains, recorded by Angel (1922) is referable to this Kenya race, as are also four listings of *bayonii* by me (1923; 1924; 1929; 1937). Less certain as to which race it should be assigned is Oscar Neumann's specimen from "Sero" (? Ssera, Lake Tanganyika) referred to *Mabuia bayoni* (*sic*) by Tornier, 1896 (Die Kreichthiere Deutsch-Ost-Afrikas, Berlin, p. 42); this formed the basis of subsequent listings by Tornier (1897; 1900) and Nieden (1913), who added a series taken between Lake Victoria and Nguruman (i.e. Ngurumani).

For the loan of the paratype material in the United States National Museum, as well as an Angolan *b. bayonii* (U.S.N.M. 26389) for comparative purposes, I am indebted to Dr. Doris M. Cochran.

*Diagnosis.* Dorsals tricarinate, whereas in *b. bayonii* they are strongly quinquecarinate. Certain other characters may prove to have an average difference, but this cannot be demonstrated until more material of typical *bayonii* is available.

*Description.* Based on the holotype (variations of paratypes are placed in parentheses). Supranasals in contact behind the rostral; centre of nostril in advance of, even though slightly, the vertical of the suture between rostral and first labial; postnasal in contact with first labial only (except on right side of U.S.N.M. 40710, and both sides of U.S.N.M. 40781, where it touches the second labial also); anterior loreal in contact with first and second labials (or occasionally second only); supraoculars 3, the first and second being fused into a single shield (3-4 in paratypes); supraciliaries 4-5 (3-5), first largest; subocular narrowed inferiorly, reaching the lip between the fifth and sixth upper labials (in all); lower eyelid with a transparent disk that is subequal to, or slightly larger than the ear-opening, which has 2 (2-3) more or less acuminate lobules projecting from its anterior border; frontonasal in contact with the first (as it is fused with the second) supraocular (though usually *not* in con-

tact with the first); *frontoparietal single*, larger than the interparietal, which separates the parietals completely; nuchals multicarinate.

Midbody scale-rows 36 (34-36), *dorsals strongly tricarinate*; preanals not or but slightly enlarged; scales on soles not or but slightly pointed; subdigital lamellae smooth; toes of the adpressed hind limb meet the finger tips (or fail to meet, or extend to wrist) of the backward-pressed forelimb.

*Color.* Above (pale or dark) olive brown; dorsum with several longitudinal series of black (and white) flecks (or ocelli); a cream (or white) dorsolateral line extends backwards from the supraocular region to some distance along the tail; from the white labials a lateral line extends along the flanks on to base of tail. Below, white, uniform.

*Size.* Total length of type ♂ (M.C.Z. 29662), 148 (62 + 86) mm.; of paratype ♀ (M.C.Z. 29663), 160<sup>+</sup> (82 + 78<sup>+</sup>) mm., tail-tip missing.